



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**Wallace State Office Building
502 East 9th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034**

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

**APPLICATION FOR
IOWA RESIDENT & NON-RESIDENT
COMMERCIAL TURTLE LICENSE**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE: _____

COUNTY: _____ PHONE: _____

SOCIAL SECURITY NO.: _____ DATE OF BIRTH: _____

HT: _____ WT: _____ EYES: _____ HAIR: _____

COMMERCIAL TURTLE LICENSE FEE:

- ☐ **Resident Commercial Turtle License **** \$ **50.00** \$ _____
- ☐ **Non-Resident Commercial Turtle License** \$ **100.00** \$ _____

Commercial Turtle Gear Tags: _____ (Minimum \$5 total order for tags)

How many resident turtle tags? _____ **\$1.00 for each tag** \$ _____

How many non-resident turtle tags? _____ **\$2.00 for each tag** \$ _____

TOTAL ORDER \$ _____

****If purchasing a resident license, the applicant's signature certifies that the applicant is a legal resident of Iowa and meets the residency requirements outlined in the Iowa Hunting & Fishing Regulations. (483A.1A)**

Signature of the person in whose name the license **date**
is to be issued.



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WALLACE STATE OFFICE BUILDING
502 EAST 9TH STREET
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319-0034
IOWA COMMERCIAL FISHING LAWS

It is unlawful to use commercial gear in the taking of commercial fish, turtles and mussels from the waters of the state, except as otherwise provided by statute or administrative rules of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Commercial Licenses and Gear Tags

1. A person shall not use or operate commercial gear unless at least one individual at the site where the commercial gear is being operated possesses an appropriate valid commercial license, or a designated operator's license. A license is valid from the date of issue to January 10 of the succeeding calendar year.
2. A commercial fisher may designate a person as a designated operator to lift and to fish with any licensed commercial fishing gear owned by the commercial fisher. A commercial fisher shall not have more than five designated operators. A designated operator's license shall be assigned to not more than three operators during a year and a designated operator's license shall be valid for the use only by an operator who possesses the license and has signed the license. The signature of any preceding designated operator who possessed the license shall be crossed out. A designated operator shall not lift or fish any commercial fishing gear without possessing a designated operator's license which is signed by the operator. A designated operator's license that is not signed by the operator, who is in possession of the license, will be forfeited to the state.
3. A boundary water annual sport trotline license permits the licensee to use a maximum of four trotlines with 200 hooks in the aggregate. All boundary water sport trotlines shall be tagged with the name and address of the licensee on a metal tag affixed above the waterline. **NOT A COMMERCIAL LICENSE.**
4. Commercial fishers and turtle fishers shall purchase gear tags from the department to be affixed to each piece of gear in use. Notwithstanding the fee rates for gear tags listed, the minimum fee for a gear tag is \$5. All tags are valid for 10 years from the date of issue. In addition to the gear tags, all gear shall be tagged with a metal tag showing the name and address of the licensee and whether the gear is fish or turtle gear.
5. All number fish gear tags are interchangeable among the different types of commercial fish gear.

6. Annual license fees are as follows:

a. Commercial Fishing, resident	\$200
b. Commercial Fishing, non-resident	\$400
c. Designated operator, resident	\$50
d. Designated operator, non-resident	\$100
e. Commercial turtle, resident	\$50
f. Commercial turtle, non-resident	\$100
g. Commercial mussel fisher, resident	\$100
h. Commercial mussel fisher, non-resident	\$2,500
i. Commercial mussel buyer, resident	\$1,000
j. Commercial mussel buyer, non-resident	\$5,000
k. Commercial mussel helper, resident	\$50
l. Commercial mussel helper, non-resident	\$100
m. Boundary water sport trotline, resident	\$10
n. Boundary water sport trotline, non-resident	\$10

7. Commercial fish gear tags are required on the following units of commercial fishing gear at the listed fee:

a. Seine, resident, one gear tag for each 100 feet or fraction thereof	\$1
b. Seine, non-resident, one gear tag for each 100 feet or fraction thereof	\$2
c. Trammel net, resident, one gear tag for each 100 feet or fraction thereof	\$1
d. Trammel net, non-resident, one gear tag for each 100 feet or fraction thereof	\$2
e. Gill net, resident, one gear tag for each 100 feet or fraction thereof	\$1
f. Gill net, non-resident, one gear tag for each 100 feet or fraction thereof	\$2
g. Entrapment nets, resident, one gear tag per net	\$1
h. Entrapment nets, non-resident, one gear tag per net	\$2
i. Commercial trotline, resident, one gear tag for each 50 hooks or less	\$1
j. Commercial trotline, non-resident, one gear tag for each 50 hooks or less	\$2

8. Turtle trap gear tags are not interchangeable with other commercial gear. Turtle trap gear tag fees are as follows:

a. Commercial turtle trap, resident, (one gear tag per trap)	\$1
b. Commercial turtle trap, non-resident, one gear tag per trap (limited to the Mississippi, Missouri, and Big Sioux rivers)	\$2

Tagging of Commercial Gear

Each trotline shall have the tags affixed to one end. Each hoop net, slat net, trap net, and turtle trap shall have the appropriate tag affixed to the end nearest the pot. Each gill net and each trammel net shall have the tags affixed to the float line nearest the take-out hole. Each Seine shall have the tags affixed to one end.

Baits

1. It is lawful for licensed commercial fishers, designated operators, commercial turtle fishers, and licensed sport trotline fishers to pursue, take, possess and transport any commercial fish or their parts, bait fish, turtles, frogs, salamanders, leeches, crayfish or any other aquatic invertebrates for bait unless otherwise prohibited by law.
2. It is lawful to use any member of the following families as bait fish in boundary waters: cyprinidae, the minnows; catostomidae, the suckers; umbridae, the mudminnows; clupeidae, the herrings; hiodontidae, the mooneyes; amilidae, the bowfin, unless otherwise prohibited by law.
3. It is lawful to use green sunfish, *lepomis cyanellu*, and orange-spotted sunfish, *lepomis humilis*, for bait fish.
4. It is lawful to use minnow seines for taking bait in the boundary waters. Minnow seines may not exceed 50 feet in length and eight feet in depth.

Unlawful Methods

It is unlawful:

1. To use commercial gear within 900 feet from a navigation dam on the boundary waters.
2. To use commercial gear within 300 feet from the mouth of a tributary stream emptying into the boundary waters.
3. For a person to lift or to fish licensed commercial gear of another person, except by the licensee and the licensee's designated operators.
4. To have in one's possession game fish or other fish, turtles, or mussels deemed illegal by other provisions of law while engaged in commercial activities. A fish caught in commercial fishing that is not lawful to possess shall be handled with wet hands and immediately released under-water with as little injury as possible.
5. To block or inhibit navigation through channels with commercial fishing gear unless a minimum of three feet of water depth is maintained over float lines of any entanglement gear or leads to trap nets. Gear shall not block over one-half the width of navigable channel if there is less than three feet of water over the gear.

Sale of Commercial Fish

1. A person possessing a commercial fishing license or designated operator's license may possess and sell any commercial fish, turtles or freshwater mussels or their parts, which have been lawfully taken.
2. All intrastate and interstate shipments of commercial fish or turtles must be accompanied by a label which shows the name and address of the seller and the kinds and pounds of the catches being sold. Individuals purchasing fish, turtles or mussels from a commercial fisher or turtle fisher need not possess a license.

Reciprocity For Commercial Fishing, Commercial Turtle Fishing and Commercial Mussel Fishing

1. Reciprocal commercial fishing and commercial turtle fishing privileges are contingent upon a grant of similar privileges by the appropriate state to residents of this state.
2. The commission may negotiate commercial reciprocity agreements with other states.

Reports Required

All commercial fishers, commercial turtle fishers, commercial mussel fishers, and commercial mussel buyers shall submit a monthly report supplying all information requested of forms furnished by the department. The department must receive reports no later than the fifteenth day of the following month. A person who violates the reporting requirements is guilty of a simple misdemeanor and may have their license revoked.

Commercial Fishing-Mississippi River and Missouri River

Fish may be taken for commercial purposes from the Mississippi and Missouri rivers subject to the following regulations.
Commercial Fishers license does not allow turtle harvest on inland waters.

Permissive Catch:

Except for channel catfish, flathead catfish and shovelnose sturgeon, which may not be taken from the **MISSOURI RIVER**, it shall be lawful to take with licensed commercial fishing gear the following species; carp, smallmouth buffalo, black buffalo, largemouth buffalo, channel catfish, flathead catfish, black bullhead, yellow bullhead, brown bullhead, freshwater drum, northern redhorse, silver redhorse, spotted sucker, white sucker, river carpsucker, quillback, highfin carpsucker, white amur, bighead carp, shovelnose sturgeon, longnose gar, shortnose gar, bowfin, gizzard shad, goldeye, mooneye and silver carp.

Size Limits:

The minimum length limit for all catfish is 15 inches. Catfish less than 15 inches shall be returned unharmed to the water.

Permitted Gear:

Hoop nets, trap nets (fyke nets), gill nets, trammel nets, slat nets (basket traps), seines and trotlines (setlines) may be used by licensed commercial fishers.

Mesh Size Restrictions:

- a. Hoop nets and trap nets. An escape hole with a minimum diameter of one and one-half inches all directions shall be provided within 12 inches beyond the last hoop to the tailline.
- b. Gill nets. The webbing shall have a mesh size not less than three and one-half inches square measure.
- c. Trammel nets. The webbing shall have a mesh size not less than two inches square measure.
- d. Seines. There are no mesh size restrictions.
- e. Slat nets. An escape hole with a minimum diameter of one and one-half inches all directions shall be provided in the end opposite the throat.

Gear Attendance:

The licensee or a designated operator must be present when lifting commercial gear. All commercial gear shall be lifted and emptied of catch at the following time intervals, except during periods of inclement weather. Inclement weather is defined as that threatening to life, health or safety.

- a. Constant attendance by the licensee or a designated operator of seines, trammel nets and gill nets is required when the gear is fished by driving, dive-seining, seining, floating or drifting methods.
- b. Hoop nets shall be attended at least once every 96 hours and slat nets at least once every 48 hours during open water conditions. Hoop nets shall be attended at least once every 20 days during the ice cover conditions.
- c. Trap nets and trotlines shall be attended at least once every 24 hours.
- d. Gill nets and trammel nets shall be attended at least once every 24 hours during open water conditions, and at least once every 96 hours during ice cover conditions.

Commercial Fishing - Inland Waters

All commercial fishing on inland waters is conducted through a limited entry contract fishing procedure which involves competitive bidding and a public bid letting. Those interested in contract fishing should contact the fisheries bureau of the DNR for more information. Commercial fishers licensed with the state may enter into contract with owners of private water bodies for the removal of injurious fish provided approval is received from the director or staff of the department prior to any sampling or removal operations.

FRESHWATER MUSSELS

License Requirements:

A person shall not take, possess or sell freshwater mussels from the water of the state without the appropriate license.

A resident commercial mussel license holder must have resided in this state for one year preceding the person's application for a commercial mussel fishing license.

a. A sport-fishing license entitles a person to take and possess a maximum of 20 pounds of mussels or shells daily. The possession limit for each licensee is 20 pounds of live mussels or shells. Sale of mussels or shells is not permitted with a sport-fishing license.

b. A commercial mussel license is required to take more than twenty pounds of mussels or shells daily, or possess more than 20 pounds of mussels or shells. The holder of a commercial mussel license may sell mussels or shells.

c. A commercial mussel buyer license is required to buy mussels or shells.

d. A commercial mussel helper license is required to assist commercial mussel fishers in the possessing, processing, or transporting of commercial freshwater mussels. The taking or sale of mussels or shells is not permitted with a commercial mussel helper license.

Seasons:

There shall be an open season for taking mussels each year from April 1 through August 31. The taking of mussels is restricted to the hours between sunrise and sunset.

Size Limits:

Except as otherwise provided, a commercial mussel fisher, commercial mussel buyer or commercial mussel helper shall not take or possess a species of mussel open to commercial mussel harvest which is less than the minimum size limit. The minimum size limit on three-ridge mussels shall be 3 inches and on mapleleaf mussels it shall be 2-3/4 inches. The minimum size limit on all other mussel species open to commercial harvest shall be 2-1/2 inches. The measurement for minimum size shall be from the center of the hinge side and at a right angle across the shell to the outer edge. All mussels under the minimum size limit that are taken by crowfoot bar or hand shall be returned immediately to the water unharmed over the bed from which they were removed.

Species Regulations:

Licensed commercial mussel fishers may take the following species of mussels: three-ridge, mapleleaf, pimpleback, pigtoe, hickory nut, and pink heelsplitter. There shall be a continuous closed season on all other species.

Areas:

Mussel harvest for commercial purposes shall be limited to the waters of the Mississippi River and connected backwaters common with the state of Illinois.

Methods:

Hand, diving, and crowfoot bar may take mussels not to exceed 20 feet in length. No more than three crowfoot bars may be fished.

TURTLES

License Requirements:

A person shall not take, possess or sell turtles from the water of the state without an appropriate license.

a. A valid sport-fishing license entitles a person to take and possess a maximum of 100 pounds of live turtles or 50 pounds of dressed turtles. The sale of live or dressed turtles is not permitted with a sport fishing license.

b. A commercial turtle license is required to take and possess more than 100 pounds of live or 50 pounds of dressed turtles. The holders of a commercial turtle license may sell live or dressed turtles.

c. A commercial fishing license or a designated operator's license entitles fishers to operate any licensed commercial fishing gear for taking, possessing or selling turtles **from the Mississippi and Missouri rivers only.**

d. An individual possessing a valid commercial turtle license may have the assistance of one unlicensed individual in the commercial taking of turtles.

Non-Residents:

It shall be unlawful for any non-resident to take turtles in Iowa, by any method, except from the Mississippi, Missouri and Big Sioux rivers.

Permissive Catch:

It shall be lawful to take common snapping turtles, softshells, and painted turtles. Possession of alligator snapping turtles is not permitted. The taking of turtle eggs from wild nests is prohibited.

Methods:

The method of taking turtles shall only be by hand, turtle hook, turtle trap, licensed commercial fishing gear in the Mississippi and Missouri rivers only, and hook-and-line. Turtle traps shall be constructed with no more than one throat or funneling device. The last hoop to the tail-line of turtle traps shall have a functional escape hole provided with a minimum diameter in all directions of 7-1/2 inches to allow passage of fish and small turtles. Barrel and floating type turtle traps must have a functional escape hole below the water surface with a minimum diameter in all directions of 7-1/2 inches.

Tags:

Any unattended gear used to take turtles shall have affixed a metal tag provided by the owner bearing the owner's name and address. In addition commercial turtle fishers shall purchase gear tags from the Department of Natural Resources as required in 1986 Iowa Acts, Chapter 1141, and affix to each turtle trap.

Gear Attendance:

All turtle traps shall be lifted and emptied of catch at least once every 72 hours.

Exclusions:

Chapter 482 does not apply to turtles taken and imported from outside the state. For purposes of this rule "state" does not include the boundary waters.

For additional information regarding commercial fishing laws, license applications or report forms, write to the DNR central office address listed on the front cover.

IF PURCHASING A RESIDENT LICENSE, THE APPLICANT MUST MEET THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS OUTLINED IN THE IOWA CODE 483A.1A.

MONTHLY REPORT OF COMMERCIAL TURTLE FISHING

LICENSEE NAME	STREET OR ROUTE	CITY	STATE & ZIP CODE
LICENSE NUMBER TU 2006	TELEPHONE NUMBER	REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF 2006	CHECK HERE IF YOU <u>DID NOT</u> <u>HARVEST TURTLES</u> []

TURTLE FISHING LOCATIONS

CHECK APPLICABLE AREAS

SPECIES HARVESTED

[illegible]

CHECK IF LAST REPORT FOR THE YEAR []

TOTALS:

No. / Lbs.

No. / Lbs.

No. / Lbs.

No.	/	Lbs.
1	1	1
2	2	2
3	3	3
4	4	4
5	5	5
6	6	6
7	7	7
8	8	8
9	9	9
10	10	10
11	11	11
12	12	12
13	13	13
14	14	14
15	15	15
16	16	16
17	17	17
18	18	18
19	19	19
20	20	20
21	21	21
22	22	22
23	23	23
24	24	24
25	25	25
26	26	26
27	27	27
28	28	28
29	29	29
30	30	30
31	31	31
32	32	32
33	33	33
34	34	34
35	35	35
36	36	36
37	37	37
38	38	38
39	39	39
40	40	40
41	41	41
42	42	42
43	43	43
44	44	44
45	45	45
46	46	46
47	47	47
48	48	48
49	49	49
50	50	50
51	51	51
52	52	52
53	53	53
54	54	54
55	55	55
56	56	56
57	57	57
58	58	58
59	59	59
60	60	60
61	61	61
62	62	62
63	63	63
64	64	64
65	65	65
66	66	66
67	67	67
68	68	68
69	69	69
70	70	70
71	71	71
72	72	72
73	73	73
74	74	74
75	75	75
76	76	76
77	77	77
78	78	78
79	79	79
80	80	80
81	81	81
82	82	82
83	83	83
84	84	84
85	85	85
86	86	86
87	87	87
88	88	88
89	89	89
90	90	90
91	91	91
92	92	92
93	93	93
94	94	94
95	95	95
96	96	96
97	97	97
98	98	98
99	99	99
100	100	100

[illegible]